

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 16, with the following:

FIGs. 4A-B illustrate a preferred embodiment hardware member of the present invention, indicated generally at 100. The hardware member 100 includes a body portion 102 and an attached tang portion 104. Tang portion 104 has a slot [[105]] 103 formed therein for coupling the hardware member to other hardware portions of the safety belt, as is known in the art. Body portion 102 preferably has three elongated slots 106, 108, 110 formed therein. Slot 106 is configured to receive one end of a first anti-submarine belt (not shown – see FIG. 5) therethrough, while slot 110 is configured to receive one end of a second anti-submarine belt (not shown – See FIG. 5) therethrough. The slots 106-110 are preferably rounded in order to minimize bunching of the belt portions contained therein and to minimize wear thereon.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 19, with the following:

Body portion 102 is coupled to a tang portion 104 having a slot [[122]] 103 formed therein for coupling to a latch and link mechanism (not shown – see FIG. 5), as is known in the art. The slot [[122]] 103 opening is preferably oriented 90 degrees from the slot 108 opening. The hardware member 100 may be made from any material that is suitably strong given the forces that member 100 may encounter in use, such as steel or forged aluminum, for example.

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